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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/551,118	CHENG ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ronald Laneau	3627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 05/04/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 4 and 8-15 now renumbered as 1-9.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 4/17/00, 2/14/01, 6/11/03 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

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Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 4 and 8-15 are allowed now renumbered as 1-9.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance in view of the Board of Appeals decision:

None of the references, either singularly or in combination, teaches or even suggests the totality of combined elements as claimed:

As per claim 4, a computer implemented process of managing manufacturing logistics of configure-to-order ends products comprising the steps a-k.

As per claims 8-12, a method that translates end-product demand forecast in an assemble-to-order (ATO) environment into a forecast for components, taking into account outbound leadtime comprising the totality of combined elements as claimed.

As per claims 13 and 14, a method that relates service requirements to base-stock levels of components in an assemble-to-order (ATO) environment comprising the totality of combined elements as claimed.

As per claim 15, a method that translates service requirements in terms of leadtimes in requirements for off-shelf availability of components comprising the totality of combined elements as claimed.

The closest prior arts, Huang et al (US 6,151,582)) discloses decision support system for managing an argile supply chain including a server side and a client side. The server side includes a decision support database that interfaces with a model engine that performs analysis of

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the data to support planning decision. The client side includes decision frames that present the various view points available in the system to the users.

The closest prior art, Masayuki et al (JP 2004227269A) disclose a new in-process inventory control system for automatically deciding an in-process inventory level immediately before a downstream sub-process, so as to satisfy the number of requests to the downstream sub-process, and also automatically planning a production schedule in an upstream sub-process, so as to secure the decided in process inventory level.

The closest prior art, NPL, Jing-Sheng Song (On the order fill rate in a multi-item, base-stock inventory system) discloses competitive pressures in today's market place that are forcing companies to offer quicker response to customer needs. As a result, managers pay close attention to performance that reflects system responsiveness. These trends present new challenges in inventory management.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ronald Laneau whose telephone number is (703) 305-3973. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 8:30am - 6:00pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached on (703) 308-5183. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RL

Ronald Laneau
Examiner
Art Unit 3627

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Handwritten signature: Ronald Laneau
Handwritten text: Primary Examiner
Handwritten date: 5/27/05